

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 MC-02 /060 W
----- 048643

P 140951Z MAR 75
FM AMCONSUL NAHA
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1637
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA
USAGO FORT BUCKNER
313TH AD KADENA
MARCORB CAMP BUTLER
COMFLEACTS OKINAWA
3RD MAR DIV CAMP COURTNEY
CINCPAC HAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 096
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PINS, JA
SUBJECT: GROWING CAMPAIGN AGAINST USMC ARTILLERY EXERCISES
REF: NAHA 088, 090 (NOTAL)
SUMMARY: THE LEFTIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST USMC ARTILLERY EXERCISES OVER
HIGHWAY 104 IS STEADILY ESCALATING. THE MAJOR OBJECTS OF ATTACK ARE
THE US, THE POLICE, AND THE DFAB; VOTH OF THE LATTER APPEAR DEEPLY

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DISHEARTENED, WITH LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR TRYING TO CONDUCT THE
EXERCISE AGAIN. END SUMMARY.
1. THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST USMC ARTILLERY FIRING OVER HIGHWAY 104 CON-
TINUES FULL TILT IN THE (LEFTIST) LOCAL MEDIA, SPURRED ON BY REPORTS
THAT THE MARINES PLAN TO CLOSE THE HIGHWAY MARCH 19 AND TRY AGAIN. TH
E
OKINAWA PREFECTURAL ASSEMBY UNANIMOUSLY PASSED A RESOLUTION CALLING
FOR THE CESSATION OF ALL MILITARY EXERCISES, WHICH HAS BEEN PRESENTED
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BY A DELEGATION LED BY THE SPEAKER AND INCLUDING LDP (CONSERVATIVE)

MEMBERS TO THE USMC, CONGEN, AND DIRECTOR NAHA OF THE DFAB. NARA REPORTEDLY TOLD THE DELEGATION HE WAS NEGOTIATING WITH THE US TO HAVE THE MARCH 19 EXERCISE CANCELED. GOVERNOR YARA'S APPEALS TO MG DAVID (THE OKINAWA REA COORDINATOR), THE GOJ, AND EMBASSY TOKYO HAVE BEEN WIDELY REPORTED.

2. THE OKINAWA TIMES ALLEGED THAT ACCORDING TO DFAB SOURCES, THE MARINES WANTED TO CARRY ON WITH THE MARCH 11 EXERCISES ONCE THE DEMON-

STRATORS HAD SCATTERED INTO HIDING IN BRUSH AT OR AROUND THE IMPACT AREA, BUT WERE DISSUADED BY A SPECIAL APPEAL FROM THE DFAB.

3. THE POLICE HAVE COME UNDER HEAVY ATTACK FOR THEIR ORIGINAL ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO APPLY THE SPECIAL CRIMINAL LAW AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS APPREHENDED IN THE EXERCISE AREA

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AND FOR HAVING THEIR MEN CHOPPERED ABOARD USMC HELICOPTERS INTO THE IMPACT AREA TO CLEAR OUT THE PROTESTERS. POLICE CHIEF KATO REPORTEDLY STATED THIS LATTER ACTION WAS WITHIN THE LAW AND WAS INTENDED TO PROTECT THE DEMONSTRATORS FROM POSSIBLE UNEXPLODED ROUNDS IN THE IMPACT AREA. HE THEN BACKTRACKED SOMEWHAT, SAYING THAT WHILE HE WOULD TAKE SIMILAR ACTION IN URGENT LIFE-AND-DEATH SITUATIONS, HE WOULD NOT AGAIN REQUEST THE USE OF US HELICOPTERS IN A SITUATION LIKE THAT OF THE MARCH 11 EXERCISE.

4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, GENSUIKYO (THE ANTI-H BOMB ASSOCIATION), IN COORDINATION WITH SOHYO, OTHER UNIONS, AND OTHER PROTEST GROUPS, IS ORGANIZING TO BLOCK THE PROPOSED MARCH 19 EXERCISE AND ANY OTHER FUTURE ATTEMPTS.

5. I VISITED DFAB DIRECTOR NAHA THIS AFTERNOON. HE APPEARS BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY EXHAUSTED, HAVING BEEN BOMBARDED BY DELEGATIONS, MENACING PHONE CALLS, AND BOMB THREATS. HE INDICATED THAT THE POLICE REGARD AN ATTEMPT TO HOLD ANOTHER EXERCISE ON MARCH 19 WITH NO ENTHUSIASM; THEY GOT A BLACK EYE FOR THE LAST ATTEMPT, AND THE PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY IS RIGHT NOW IN THE PROCESS OF CONSIDERING THEIR BUDGET. NARA HAD NO NEW IDEAS AS TO HOW THE

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PROTESTERS COULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE EXERCISE AREA AND THE FIRING COULD PROCEED. I INDICATED I UNDERSTOOD HIS PROBLEMS, BUT POINTED OUT THE NECESSITY OF THIS TRAINING TO THE USMC AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE MARINES OF GIVING UP THIS ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT THE EXERCISE WITHOUT A SPECIFIC COMMITMENT FROM THE DFAB ON THE NEXT ATTEMPT.

6. COMMENT: THE LEFTISTS SEEM TO HAVE A GRIP ON THIS ISSUE THAT REALLY

HURTS US AND ARE MAKING THE MOST OF IT. THE SOCIALIST APPEAR TO BE
TAKING THE LEAD BECAUSE IT GIVES THEM A CHANCE TO SHOW THEIR LEFTIST
CREDENTIALS WITHOUT HAVING TO FOLLOW THE COMMUNISTS (WHO OF COURSE
ARE ALSO ON THE ATTACK). ALTHOUGH THE LEFTISTS WOULD FIND
DIFFICULTY IN MOUNTING EFFECTIVE PROTEST EFFORTS OVER A SUSTAINED
PERIOD, THEIR RETURNS THUS FAR IN PUBLICITY AND MOREALE PROBABLY
MAKE IT WORTHWHILE.

SYLVESTER

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